

ROOSEVELT NOW
CANDIDATE, TAFT
BEATEN IS BOAST

La Follette Organization Believed Ready to Make Public Its Scheme.

COLONEL RECOGNIZED
TO BE REAL LEADER

Willingness to Accept Tender Said to Make Former Chief Executive Logical Choice.

By JUDSON C. WELLS.

"We started out to beat Taft, and we have done it."

"With Taft beaten and Roosevelt willing, Roosevelt's nomination is inevitable. We are satisfied."

There is the position of the La Follette political organization, which is expected to be made clear, in some public way, soon after the return of the Wisconsin Senator from his Western stumping tour. There will be some opposition to it, and it is probable La Follette's name will be withdrawn as a Presidential aspirant. In all probability, he will be named in the Chicago convention of next June, and will get whatever votes are sent there to support him.

To Keep Machinery.

But the La Follette forces recognize that Roosevelt will be the real progressive candidate, the man who will defeat Taft if Taft is not renominated. Most of them are satisfied. Without important exception, they feel the outcome is all but certain.

Ever since the meeting of the Republican national committee, nearly a month ago, this condition has been developing rapidly. Today the largest question is what will be done with the organization, machinery, and accomplished work of the National Progressive Republican League, the La Follette organization.

That will not be decided for a considerable period yet. Meanwhile the organization will go right ahead with its work of creating sentiment in favor of a reorganization of the Republican party. The progressive league is composed of two distinct classes of people; first, those who want La Follette renominated and elected; and, second, those who want Taft defeated. Among the national figures in the organization—the Senators, Congressmen, governors, men of wealth and large affairs—these two elements are pretty evenly balanced in strength. There probably is not a man in the entire organization who would not sincerely and cheerfully give his voice for Roosevelt as against Taft.

Awaiting Developments.

The expectation among politicians is that developments will come slowly until the progressives in Congress shall have had time to decide the steps to be taken. First of all, it is recognized that while Roosevelt sentiment has engulfed the La Follette movement, it has not carried it away from all moorings, yet Colonel Roosevelt is not yet a formal, avowed candidate. Perhaps he never will be. In that event, organized work in his behalf will have to be carried forward in a devious fashion, and it will be important to maintain a mechanism through which work can be done for the progressive cause. The La Follette League is excellently organized to do this.

Friends of Senator La Follette declare he never has believed he could be nominated this year. That there was a gambling chance, of course, many of his followers have insisted. No game involves more fascinating chances and uncertainties than that of a national convention. But Senator La Follette's purpose in becoming a candidate was that of the pioneer, the breaker of the ground. From the beginning it was recognized that while Senator La Follette might prove to the country that Mr. Taft was beatable, Senator La Follette was unlikely to get the nomination. Colonel Roosevelt always stood in the background as the dominating figure in reserve, ready to take the ball and make the run for the goal if the La Follette attacks should demonstrate the weakness of the Taft line.

Taft's Biggest Card Lost.

Acceptance of the conviction that Colonel Roosevelt is inevitable is fast becoming universal, save among the unseeing partisans of Mr. Taft, who demonstrate their usual incapacity to understand. The White House has played its biggest card, and lost; it has tried to extract from Colonel Roosevelt a public statement that "under no circumstances" would he run; and it has failed. A brave front (Continued on Fifth Page.)

FLAG PICTURES
FAKE, DECLARES
GOMPERS TODAY

Labor Chief Says Photograph Was "Doctored" by Los Angeles Artist.

TELLS OF STANDING
ON TABLE AT PARK

"I Would as Soon Insult My Mother's Memory as My Flag," He Avers.

Samuel Gompers today denounced the pictures purporting to show him standing on an American flag while making a speech, as "a rank fake, a palpably composite picture, part of a conspiracy to defame me in the eyes of the public."

"I would as soon insult the memory of my revered mother as to insult the flag of my country," added Mr. Gompers.

The president of the American Federation of Labor said further that the pictures originated in the art department of the Los Angeles Times, "and you know how fair and how truthful emanations from that paper concerning me are likely to be," he added.

Not New Story.

The charge that he and Kelly insulted the flag is not a new one, according to Mr. Gompers. It first appeared in the Los Angeles Times in October, and the matter came up for action before the Stanton Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, of Los Angeles. In reply to an inquiry from a member of that post, Mr. Gompers telegraphed a denial of the accusation, which was read at the post meeting.

In that telegram and in his formal statement today Mr. Gompers said that a flag was fastened on the sides of the table on which the speakers at a mass meeting stood, but that the flag did not overlap one inch of the horizontal surface of the table, and that no speaker stepped on the flag or could have stepped on it, "unless able to walk like a fly."

Faked Footprints.

"The Los Angeles Times also published a picture showing alleged footprints on a flag," said Mr. Gompers, "and this, too, is a rank fake."

Other alleged defacements of the American flag by union labor men were denied by Mr. Gompers' attention today. He was asked about the incident in a Labor Day parade in New York when a flag is reported to have been carried horizontally one man at each corner to catch silver thrown for the McNamara defense fund. It was asserted at the time that so much silver was thrown that the flag became soiled and that the four men permitted it to drag on the street for many blocks.

"I have not heard of the incident. I do not believe it happened," replied Mr. Gompers.

He also denied the resolution adopted in 1907 by the Western Federation of Miners, "that the federation denounced the American flag as a symbol of despotism, of 'wage-slavery despotism'."

"I know nothing about that," replied Mr. Gompers, "but I have heard, a man named O'Brien, in Chicago, president of the Chicago Building Contractors' Association, refused to allow the American flag to be used at a banquet because he said it did not represent liberty."

Lost Clipping.

Mr. Gompers said that a clipping he had in his office concerning the Oakland flag incident, as first represented pictorially in the Los Angeles Times, clearly showed the picture to be a fake. Mr. Gompers and his secretary sought hard to find this picture to show it to newspaper men present, but they were unable to locate it today.

Mr. Gompers says he does not think that the public generally will believe he stepped on the flag at the Oakland meeting.

His statement follows:

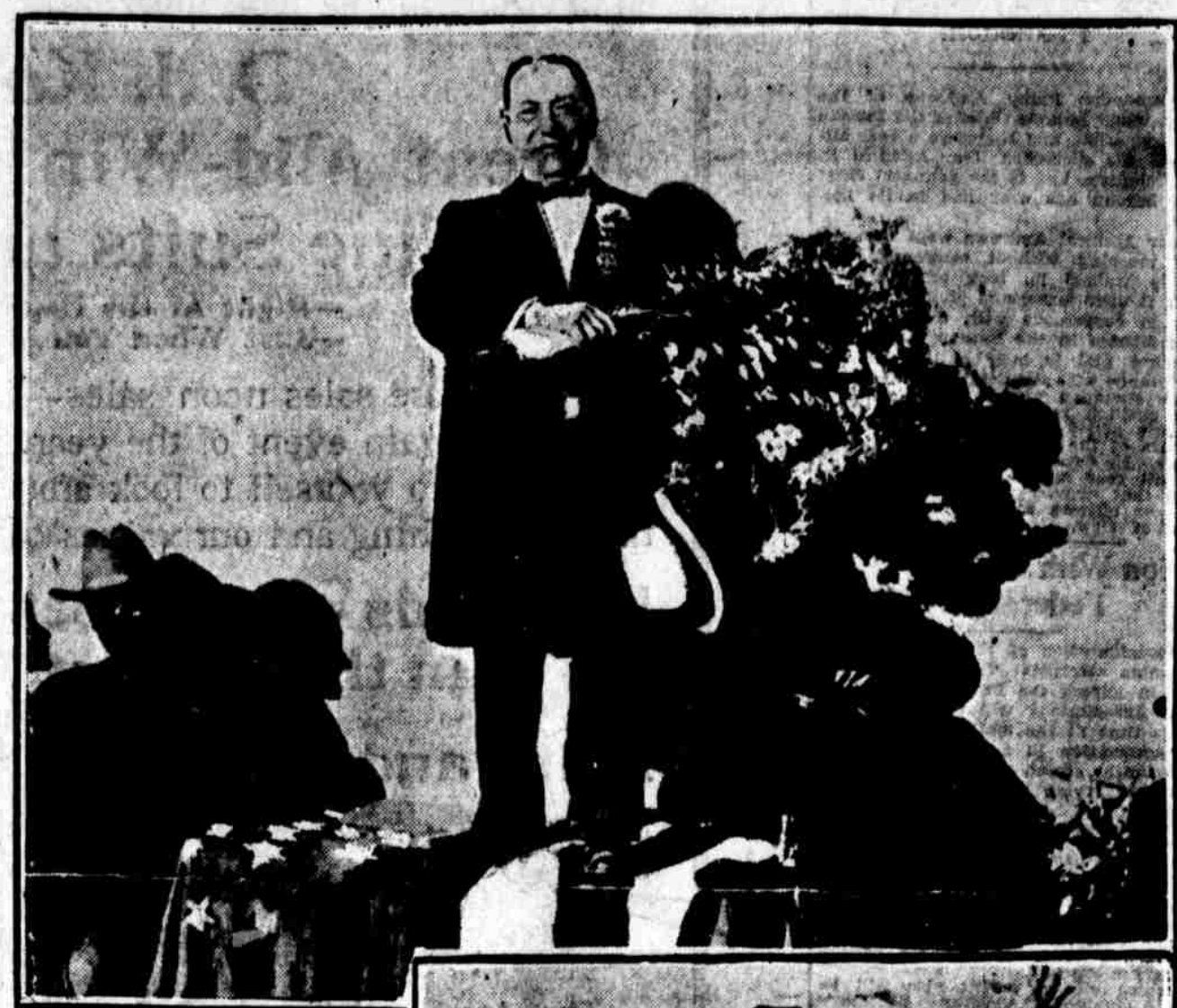
"Of the two addresses I made in Oakland, Cal., one was on Labor Day, in connection with the San Francisco demonstration and mass meeting, and that was during the day. The other meeting was during the evening, and was some days later in a hall."

"My recollection of the meeting at Shellbound park, Oakland, was that it was a park for athletics. There is a grand stand and a large field. A temporary stand was erected in the middle of the grounds, the speakers facing the grand stand, and in this instance there were thousands of men and women standing between the speaker's stand and the grand stand. The crowd was so great that many of them overflowed and stood on the temporary platform, so that the speakers could not have been seen by any one other than those on the temporary speaker's stand. There was a table on this stand, intended for the speaker's notes, and having a pitcher of water and a glass on it. The table was festooned around by an American flag. No part of it, except possibly an inch, was overlapping the table, and this simply for the purpose of holding it in position."

Explains Situation.

"When the meeting was called to order the disadvantageous position of the speakers was observed, and the public officers (school superintendent, mayor, supervisor, etc.), as well as the speakers who addressed the assembly, were called to by the crowd to ascend the table. Those in the crowd manifested discontent, because they could not see those who were to address them, and they shouted their disapproval, and those nearer shouted to us to 'get on the table.' A chair was furnished, and (Continued on Page Fourteen.)

Pictures Which Stirred Resentment of Military Men



President Gompers Shown Standing on Flag While Making Speech in Oakland, Cal.

CHAMBER WILL AID
COMMISSIONERS IN
FIGHT FOR PENSIONS

Conference Is Held Over Measures Providing Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Assurance of the support of the Chamber of Commerce, in the Commissioners' endeavor to obtain legislation providing for a teachers' retirement fund were given the Commissioners by a subcommittee consisting of Dr. Arthur T. Ramsey, William T. Gallier, and Washington Topham at a conference with Commissioner Rudolph today.

Two bills were discussed, one introduced in the House by Congressman Ben Johnson, chairman of the House District Committee, and the other in the Senate, by Senator Gallinger, chairman of the Senate District Committee. At the close of the conference Commissioner Rudolph said the committee was under the mistaken impression that the teachers' pension bill, which provides for the retirement of superannuated teachers upon pensions derived from a system of contributions by the teachers themselves. This impression was corrected and the committee informed that the Commissioners stand ready to favor any measure which, while protecting the interests of the public, will insure the elimination from the schools of those teachers who are unfit for further service by reason of age or disability incurred while teaching.

The Commissioners are of the opinion, however, that the fund should not have to depend largely on public funds, such as the tuition fees of non-resident pupils and unused balances at the end of each fiscal year as provided for in the Johnson bill. It would be better practice, they say, if appropriate, to provide for the payment of the prescribed contributions by teachers, so as to insure the beneficiaries receiving the full amount of their annuities when due.

Baseball Club Names
Old Board of Directors

The same officers and directors who have served for two years were re-elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Washington Baseball Club, at the Colorado building today.

The impression was that Clark Griffith would be chosen for a place on the board, but the manager was not a candidate.

Those again chosen to serve were: President, Thomas C. Noyes; vice president, Edward J. Walsh; secretary, Benjamin S. Minor, and treasurer, W. H. Rapley. These will serve on the board of directors, together with Rudolph Kaufmann, Henry P. Blair, and J. Miller Kenyon.

Last Minute News Told in Brief

HYDE TRIAL CONTINUED.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 2.—The third trial of Dr. B. Clark Hyde for the murder of Col. Thomas H. Swope has been continued until May 27, the State having asked for a continuance because Senator Reed, special prosecutor, is attending Congress. Dr. Hyde is at liberty on bond.

NAMES WOMAN DEPUTY.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Sheriff Julius Harburger has kept his promise to appoint women deputy sheriffs by sending a commission to Mrs. Caroline Truax,



John A. Kelly, Leader of San Francisco Building Trades Council, Standing on Flag at Labor Meeting.

RAILROAD ESCAPES
PAYING LIGHT BILL
IN MANY SECTIONS

Court of Appeals Gives Decision Against Commissioners—Old Act Does Not Apply.

Under decision of the District Court of Appeals today, it will not be possible for the Commissioners to collect \$8,000,000 from the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad Company for lighting certain streets and avenues over and under which the railway tracks of the company extend.

The court held that, inasmuch as the company constructed its tracks in conformity with the acts of Congress of February 12, 1901, and February 28, 1903, the act of 1883, under which the District tried to collect, does not apply.

Cuban Officials Out.

A dispatch has been received at the State Department stating that the resignation of the secretary of justice of the Cuban republic and that of Judge Vega of the supreme court have been accepted.

Recorded Here.

A peculiar earthquake of unusual severity was registered at 8:57 a. m. today by the seismograph at Georgetown University.

TURKS WITHOUT CABINET.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 2.—Turkey's government is being run without a cabinet, the grand vizier having as yet been unable to select ministers to succeed those who resigned Saturday.

COURT IS LEGAL.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—The Allegheny county court, created by the act of the State Legislature and signed by Governor Tener last May, has been declared constitutional by the State supreme court here.

EARTH SHOCKS FELT
IN MANY SECTIONS

Chicago Forecaster Notices Disturbance Without Aid of Instrument.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Weather Forecaster Cox felt an earthquake which sent a slight tremor through Chicago at 10:21 today.

"We have no instruments which record earthquakes here," said he, "but I felt the disturbance distinctly in my office. It was an east and west vibration and lasted only a couple of seconds."

The seismograph at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) College recorded a slight disturbance this morning shortly after 10 o'clock. The shock was of no great magnitude.

The seismograph at Marquette University, in Milwaukee, also registered a sharp disturbance of the earth's surface about 10:30 o'clock.

Underwood Returns After Brief Illness

Chairman Underwood, of the Ways and Means committee, returned to his office at the Capitol today, after a week's absence, caused by illness.

Congressman Underwood has about recovered from an attack of acute indigestion, and will be ready tomorrow to take up the work of tariff revision. He issued a call today for a meeting of the Democratic members of the committee tomorrow morning. At that time the committee will take up the tariff board report on wool, and also will consider the steel schedule, which probably will be the first tariff bill reported to the House.

Hearing to Be Given On Fur Seal Treaty

The House Foreign Affairs Committee will begin hearing tomorrow on the Sulzer resolution to make effective the treaty between this country, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan for the protection of the fur seal herds in the north Pacific ocean.

The committee also intends to take up immediately the Rainey resolution providing for an investigation of the acquisition of the Panama canal strip, and the administration of the canal government.

Moser Loses Appeal In Retirement Case

Affirming the decision of the lower court, the District Court of Appeals today denied the right of Jefferson F. Moser, of California, to obtain a writ of mandamus compelling the Secretary of the Navy to retire him as a rear admiral. Justice Wright, of the District Supreme Court, sitting on the upper court bench, gave the opinion.

Justice Wright held that inasmuch as Moser had been retired as a captain by the President, it is not within the power of the Secretary of the Navy to make the retirement as a rear admiral.

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD
GIRL KIDNAPED BY
COUPLE IN BUGGY

Daughter of Frank McPhearson Called From Ballston Schoolroom by Strangers Sought by Police of Capital.

TWO SOLDIERS BELIEVED TO
HAVE AIDED MAN AND WOMAN

Authorities of Alexandria county, Va., assisted by the Washington police, this afternoon are searching for the sixteen-year-old daughter of Frank McPhearson, an electrician, of Ballston, Va., who was kidnaped about 10 o'clock this morning from in front of the public school at Ballston.

According to McPhearson, who appealed to the Washington police this afternoon to join in the search for his daughter, the girl was seen in a buggy containing a man and a woman, who called at the school and sent in word for the girl to come out.

Two men, dressed in soldiers' uniforms, were right back of the buggy when it stopped in front of the school, and are said to have assisted in picking up the girl and putting her in the carriage. McPhearson said no one who saw the couple when they called at the school this morning, ever had seen them before, and he is of the opinion they came from Washington.

NEW ARLINGTON'S
OWNERS TO TAKE
TITLE TOMORROW

Last Stage But One in Passing of Old Hotel—Wrecking Starts in July.

The Arlington Hotel Company, the new organization which purposes spending \$4,000,000 for a new hotel on the site of the present Arlington, tomorrow will take title to the property. Immediately following this, a trust of \$1,000,000 will be given by the company to the trustees for the owners, the National Savings and Trust Company.

This will mark the last stage, save one, in the passing of the famous old "Hotel of the Presidents," and the appearance of the largest and finest hostelry in the South.

The exact date for tearing down the old Arlington Hotel, which has overlooked Lafayette park and the White House for so many years, has not yet been fixed. George Howard, president of the company which is financing the new company, said this afternoon that it will be but a few days until this date will be fixed.

F. M. Andrews, the famous New York architect, who drew the plans for the new building, and who is one of the officers of the company, and Capt. J. F. J. Archibald, also an officer, are expected to reach Washington during the next few days, to confer with the local officers and directors of the company.

It is possible the work of wrecking the present hotel will be under way by the first of July, although the officers will not make such a statement.

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Return Wife's Suggestion

It was Mrs. McPhearson's idea for the girl to return to Ballston, the husband stated, as she believed he was better able to provide for her. She brought all her clothes with her and entered the public school.

McPhearson said he could assign no reason that would prompt a stranger to kidnap the girl, as he is not a man of wealth and cannot pay a reward for her return.

A peculiar feature of the case is the part the two men supposed to be soldiers play in the case. Persons who saw them stated they wore the same uniforms as are worn by the men at Fort Myer.

Mrs. Laffey Gets Three-Year Sentence

Mrs. Margaret Laffey, who was convicted in Criminal Court No. 2 for holding up, at the point of a revolver, the manager of the Pyles store, 652 Park road, on July 8 last, and robbing \$100,000, was sentenced today to three years in prison, and refused to listen to an appeal to have her placed on probation.

Beside the woman was her sixteen-year-old son "Timmie," who turned pale and gripped his mother's arm when the court passed sentence. Both mother and son had confidently expected she would be paroled, and it was a shock when their hopes were blasted.

Justice Barnard spoke severely relative to the defense of insanity. He declared he had no patience with "faking." He said he felt a severe penalty should be imposed, and had in mind to give the prisoner five years imprisonment, but in view of the many appeals for mercy he would be lenient.

"Timmie" Laffey accompanied his mother to her cell and both sobbed until she was taken back to the District Jail to await transportation to prison.